

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

20 August 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Allan Evans, OIR
Colonel B. B. Talley, G-2
Captain Ray Malpass, ONI
Colonel Edward H. Porter, AFOIN
Captain R. G. McCool, JIG

SUBJECT : NIE-42: The Current Situation in Albania
with Particular Reference to Greek, Yugo-
slav, and Italian Interests and Preten-
sions

1. Attached are general terms of reference and assignments formulated and agreed upon by the agency representatives participating in the meeting held on 17 August.

2. Contributions are requested by the close of business on 14 September 1951.

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Executive Secretary

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

20 August 1951

SUBJECT: NIE-42: THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ALBANIA, WITH
PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO GREEK, YUGOSLAV
AND ITALIAN INTERESTS AND PRETENSIONS
(For consideration by the IAC representatives)

THE PROBLEM

To examine the current Albanian situation, to analyse the character and extent of Greek, Italian and Yugoslav interests and pretensions in Albania, and to estimate the degree to which these interests conflict, to assess the strategic importance of Albania, and to assess the significance of conflicting interests as obstacles to the effective defense of Southeastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.*

* Although this paper bears on the entire question of defense of Southeastern Europe, the Eastern Mediterranean, involving Turkey as well as the three countries noted, the study is intended to examine primarily the effect of Albania on that situation. Discussion of other problems involved in developing effective defensive arrangements in this area have, therefore, been omitted.

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SCOPE

This project should examine the stability of the Hoxha regime in Albania, the strength of its ties with the Soviet Union, and the nature and extent of resistance activities within Albania. The possible sponsorship of such activity by Yugoslavia, Italy and Greece should be examined and the degree to which the interests of these three countries conflict should be evaluated. The significance of such conflicting interests as obstacles to the creation of an effective defense of Southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean should be assessed (a) on the assumption that the Hoxha regime remains in power, and (b) on the assumption that the Hoxha regime is overthrown.

QUESTIONS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM

I. WHAT IS THE CURRENT INTERNAL SITUATION IN ALBANIA?

- State A. Is the Hoxha regime firmly established politically?
1. Are there any significant divisions among the
 top leadership?

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State/Defense

2. Are the police and armed forces under firm political control?

B. To What extent does the regime's existence depend on Soviet support?

State

1. What Soviet support and direction is necessary and how much is being provided?

State/Defense

2. What military or political agreements exist between Albania and the USSR or the other Satellites?

State/Defense

C. What resistance to the regime exists and how effective is it?

1. What specific resistance groups exist and what are their methods of operation?

2. Is there cooperation between resistance groups?

3. What are the political goals of various resistance groups?

4. What is the relationship between resistance groups in Albania and emigre movements in Italy, Greece or Yugoslavia and what is the extent of support provided by those three governments?

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State II. DO THE INTERESTS OF YUGOSLAVIA, GREECE AND ITALY IN ALBANIA
CONFLICT AND, IF SO, TO WHAT EXTENT?

- A. What is the historical background of the political, economic, and strategic interests of these three countries in Albania?
- B. What kind of a solution to the Albanian problem would each of these countries desire?
- C. What measures are these three countries now taking in pursuit of their interests, either through Albanian emigre groups or otherwise?
- D. To what extent would each of these three countries compromise in the interests of obtaining a mutually agreed solution?
- E. Are there clearly defined conflicts of interest between the three countries under present conditions?
 - 1. What affect do such conflicts have on relations between the three countries?
 - 2. Are such conflicts of interests or mutual suspicion obstacles to effective political and military co-operation among the three countries?

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Defense III. ASSUMING THAT THE HOXHA REGIME RETAINS POWER IN ALBANIA, ARE
CONFLICTING INTERESTS OF ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE IN
ALBANIA OBSTACLES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE DEFENSE
OF SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN?

- A. What is the degree and nature of cooperation between Italy, Yugoslavia and Greece desirable for effective defense of this area?
- B. What steps, if any, are currently being taken to coordinate the defense plans of these three countries?
- C. What effect does Albania in hostile hands have on the defensive capabilities and plans of each country?
- D. To what extent do the interests and pretensions of the three countries in Albania influence their military planning and to what extent does this complicate the development of coordinated defense efforts in these three countries?

State IV. ASSUMING THAT THE HOXHA REGIME IS OVERTHROWN, WHAT EFFECT
WILL POSSIBLE CONFLICTING INTERESTS OF ITALY, YUGOSLAVIA
AND GREECE HAVE ON THE SECURITY OF THAT AREA?

- A. In the event of the overthrow of the Hoxha regime, under such circumstances that USSR and the Satellites find it impractical to intervene openly, how actively would each

of the three countries attempt to influence the nature of the regime to follow?

1. Would such activity be likely to result in open hostilities among any of the three countries?
2. Given present trends, what would be the nature of the most probable successor regime?

State/Defense B. What changes in the relations of the three countries would be caused by the replacement of the Hoxha regime?

1. What changes in the military plans of each country would be necessitated by such an event?
2. Would such changes facilitate or obstruct the development of military and political cooperation among the three countries?

Defense C. What would be the effect of a change in the Albanian regime on the prospects for the development of an effective coordinated defense of Southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean?